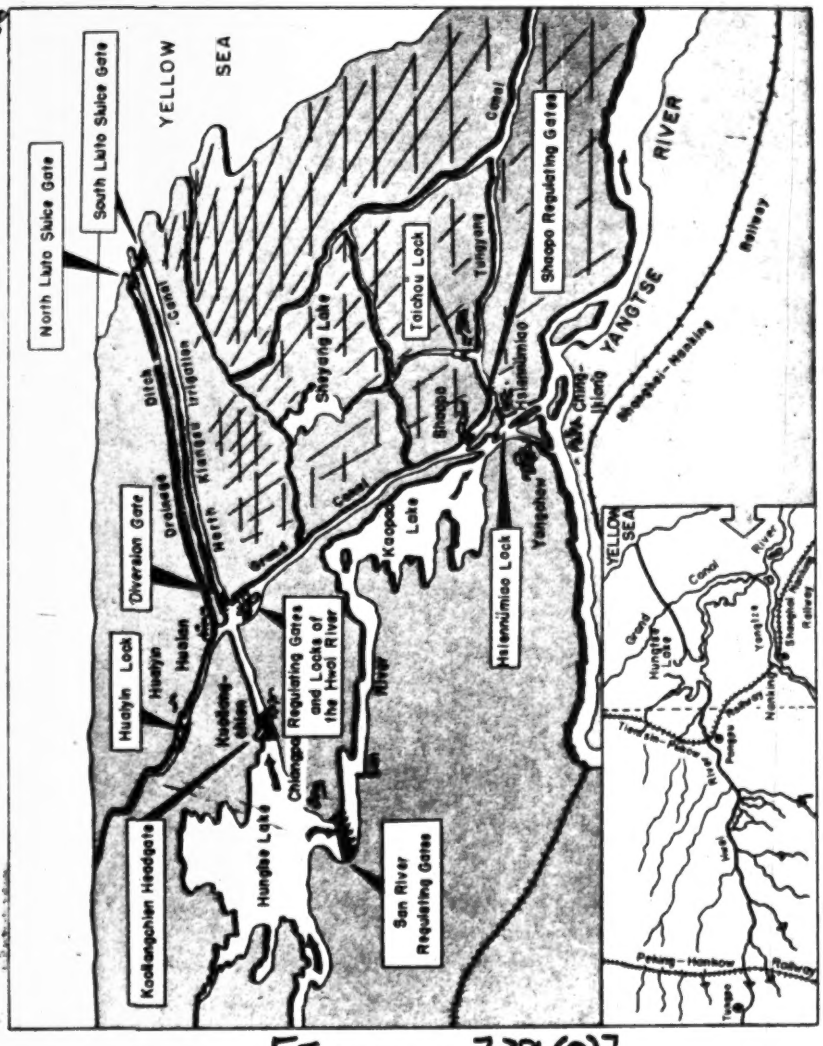
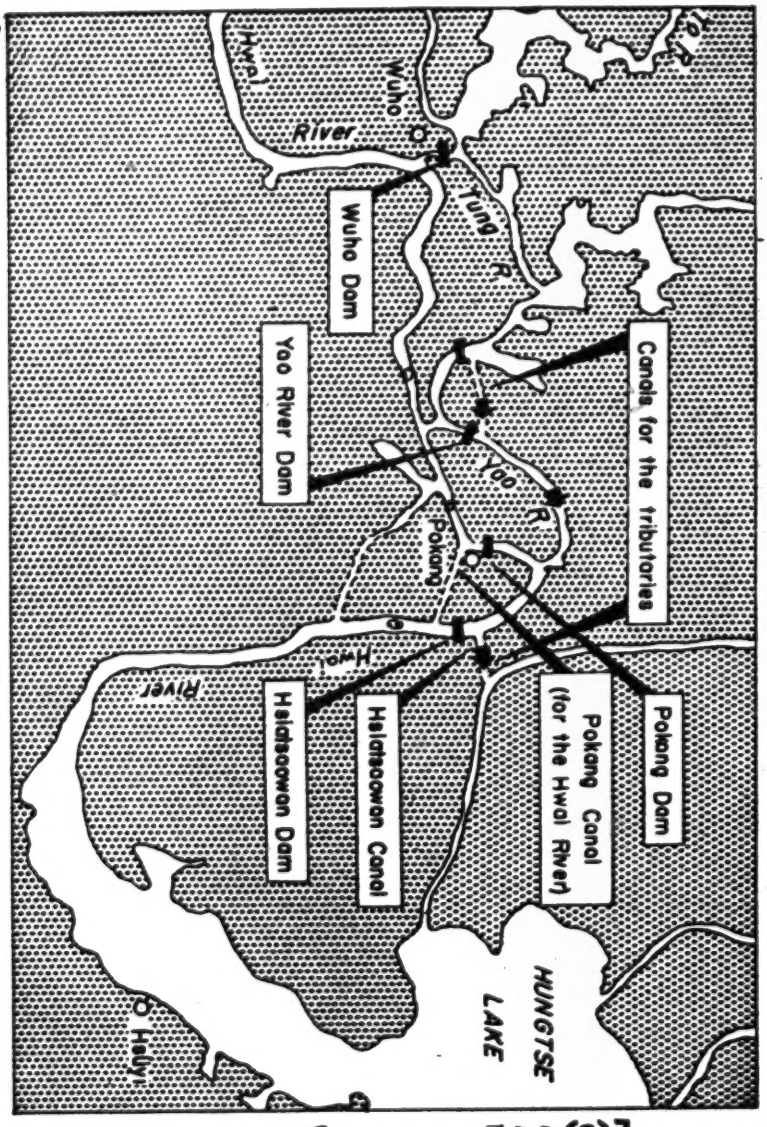
1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF15 East China AF15



[Face p. 738 (e)]

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF15 East China AF15



Hwai River Project West of Hungtse Lake

[Face p. 738(f)]

1: Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF15 East China AF15

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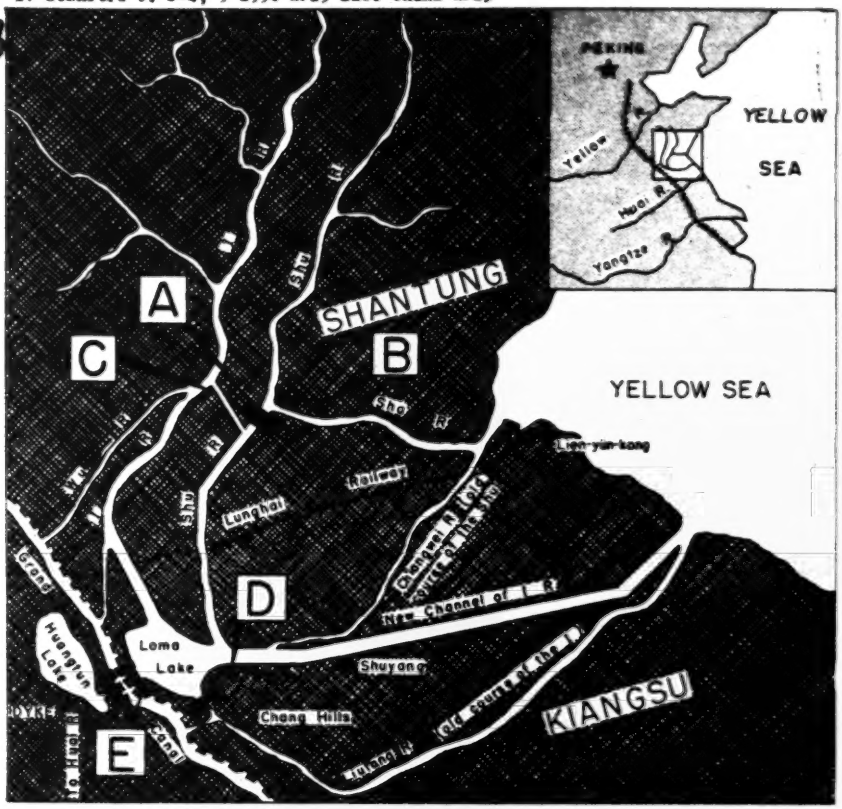

I AND SHU RIVERS PROJECT

A Dam which diverts the Shu into the Sha River

B Canal connecting the Shu with the Sha River

C Canal joining the I to the old course of the Shu

D Cutting for the new course of the I through the Chang Hills

E Sluice gates regulating flow of water between the Grand Canal and the Loma and Huangtun Lakes

[Face p. 738 (g)]

466 overemphasized by the Chinese Communists to camouflage another type of forced labor. Millions of civilians have been recruited by the government to join gigantic public projects such as water-conservation works and highway and railway construction, where mass-labor methods are needed in underdeveloped China. The most-talked-about example of mass labor methods is the Hwai River Project.

II. HWAI RIVER PROJECT

A. Origin of the Project

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●653 The Hwai River, 1,021 kilometers in length and covering an area of about 220,000 square kilometers in Honan, Anhwei, and Kiangsu provinces, had afflicted the people in this region since the fourteenth century.

In 1938, the Kuomintang government diverted the Yellow River to prevent the Japanese army from advancing west from Hsuchou. The diversion choked the main Hwai River and most of its tributaries with silt, causing the water brought down by the Yellow River from Shensi and Kansu to flood the whole Hwai region. After the war the Nationalist Government, under the direction of the American engineer, O. J. Todd, put the Yellow River into its old bed, but it was too

73/late to prevent the big flood of 1949, which
653 covered 53,000,000 mou (about 8,000,000 acres) of land and made 16,000,000 people homeless, and of this number 700,000 died of starvation and disease.[8]

The People's Government of Communist China decided to harness the river after the flood. By a directive known as "Decisions on the Harnessing of Hwai River"[9] issued by the Government Administration Council on Oct. 14, 1950 a Committee was established to direct the work which was started in November of the same year. The entire undertaking was to be completed in 1955.

B. Recruitment of Labor

466 According to the directive mentioned
653 above and some others[10] issued by the

8. Kung-jen Jih-pao [Workers' Daily], Peking, Oct. 28, 1952, p. 4.

9. Chung-yang Ts'ai-ching Cheng-ts'e Faling Hui-pien [Compilation of Laws and Regulations of the Central Government Concerning Financial and Economic Policies], Peking, compiled by the Financial and Economic Committee of the Government Administration Council, Peking, March, 1952, Vol. III, pp. 1084-86.

10. Hua-tung-chu Ts'ai-cheng Ching-chi Faling Hui-pien [Compilation of Laws and Regulations Concerning Finance and Economics in East

(continued next page)

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466 653 Ministry of Water Conservation in the Spring of 1950, the responsibility of recruiting labor force fell on the shoulders of the committee and the local governments of the hsien level. Not one word was mentioned in these directives about the funds of this huge project and the wages supposed to be paid to the workers. Because such employment offered no economic advantage, the committee and the hsien governments had to resort to methods of patriotic appeal and political coercion. Over 500,000 Party members and 100,000 cadres, members of the Youth Corps and even college students were organized into teams and spread over the districts of the three provinces to activate and mobilize the peasants.[11] Meetings, slogans, and processions were organized. The effectiveness of these methods was indicated in the fact that 2,200,000 people[12] responded to the call of Mao Tse-tung to harness the Hwai River and joined

10. (continued) China], Shanghai, 1951, Vol. I, pp. 1276-86.

11. Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Peking, Oct. 15, 1950, also Raja Hutheesing, The Great Peace, New York, 1955, pp. 101-14.

12. This figure was admitted by Fu Tso-yi, Minister of Water Conservation, Chieh-fang Jih-pao [Liberation Daily], Shanghai, July 4, 1951.

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466 653 the project in the first year. Most of the laborers were peasants, some were refugees from the flood, and still others were unemployed people in the cities. In 1952, the number of workers increased[13] to 2,400,000. In 1953, when the project had been established on a permanent basis, the workers decreased[14] to about 1,500,000. The fact that a total of more than 6,000,000 people had joined at one time or another a public project during a three year period is unheard of in Chinese history.

C. Organization of the Labor Force

466 708 653 In addition to recruited civilian workers, large numbers of the People's Liberation Army joined the project. They were supposed to do the harder jobs and act as model workers; in reality, they were to keep surveillance over the recruited workers.

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13. Chin-pu Jih-pao [Progressive Daily], Tientsin, Aug. 3, 1952.

14. Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Sept. 16, 1955.

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Organization of the Labor Force on the Hwai River*

National Committee
of
Hwai River Harnessing

↓

Headquarters of Provincial Committee
of
Hwai River Harnessing

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Headquarters of Hsien Committee
of
Hwai River Harnessing
(There were five departments under each provincial and hsien unit)

1. Organization Department
2. Propaganda Department
3. Cultural Department
4. Recreation Department
5. Statistics Department

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Regiment (The number of regiments formed in one hsien is in proportion to the number of recruited men in that hsien.)

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Battalion (Four battalions make a regiment.)

↓

Company (Four companies make a battalion.)

↓

Platoon (Four platoons make a company.)

↓

Squad (Four squads make a platoon.)

↓

Section (Four sections make a squad; one section consists of 17 workers. the total number of workers in one regiment amounts to 43, 520).

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* Chang Chao-feng, Chung-kung Chih-huai Nei-mu [The Inside Story of the Chinese Communist Conservation Works on the Hwai River], Hong Kong, 1953, p. 64.

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466 The above diagram suggests the military
708 character of the huge labor force organization
653 working on the Hwai River and how different it is from the organization of labor groups in the free world. Besides, all the responsible persons in this organization are either Party members or veterans of the Communist army.

D. Working Conditions

466 The Hwai River Project was planned on
653 the assumption that it would cost the Communist treasury nothing except grains to feed the millions. Recruited workers must bring their own tools, clothing, bedding, and even cooking utensils. The directive mentioned above indicated that the wages of one laborer should be calculated according to the number of cubic feet of earth he digs in one day. But in all the official reports of the Communists about the success of the Hwai River Project, nowhere is there given the amount one worker really received for his day's work. In the directive entitled "Provisions Concerning the Standard Payment of Allowance to the Water Conservation Workers during Rainy Days,"[15] issued by the

15. Compilation of Laws and Regulations of the Central Government Concerning Financial and Economic Policies, Peking, March 1952, Vol. III, pp. 1084-86.

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466 653 Ministry of Water Conservation, it was stated that the workers during involuntary work stoppages on rainy day did not have enough to eat; therefore, the Hwai River authorities were instructed to pay an allowance of 1 5/8 catties of millet to each worker for every rainy day. This directive shows clearly that the workers had just enough to eat for their day's work.

Another directive concerning the water conservation workers, issued on April 27, 1951 by the same ministry, indicated that the water conservation workers on the Hwai River who were recruited from the refugees of the flood should have one to four catties of rice per day for each worker to take care of his family.[16] One catty of rice was worth about 1,300 yüan in East China at that time and was equivalent to 6.5 cents in American money.[17]

The men of the Hwai River project were supposed to work not more than ten hours a day, but the Communists used the same tactics

16. Ibid., Vol. I, pp. 1276-86.

17. Exchange rate between U. S. dollar and People's Bank yuan was $1 to 20,000 in 1951.

466 653 in the labor camps as they used in the factories -- emulation drives, patriotic appeals, model worker elections -- to increase production. The 14-hour working day was common practice on the project. Activists among the workers themselves made a common compact to forfeit their New Year's vacation, and to contribute working days and tools, etc., in order to reach the norm of 6 cubic meters of earth work per day per person.[18]

The Communist newspapers lavished praises on the "enthusiasm" and "sacrifice" of the workers. One report from Anhwei said that "450,000 civilian workers in Szu-hsien passed their New Year's on the bank of the Hwai River dredging the river under the snow."[19] "Every evening, tiring after a hard working day, the men dragged back go their snow-covered straw huts. Shivering in their straw beds, they were waiting for another hard working day."[20]

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18. Chang Chao-feng, op. cit., Hong Kong, 1953, p. 67.

19. Ta-kung-pao [Ta-kung Daily], Hong Kong, March 14, 1951.

20. Ta-kung Daily, April 14, 1951.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF15 East China
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466 653 Because of the bad working conditions and the lack of nourishment and proper medical care, the mortality rate among the workers of the Hwai River Project reached 10 per cent in 1951.[21]

E. Achievements of the Hwai River Project

731 653 The first stage of the Project was completed in 1953, including the strengthening of 2,100 kilometers (1,302 miles) of dikes, drendging 860 kilometers (533.2 miles) of river beds, constructing one water storage reservoir, 12 water detention basins, and 92 sluices. Altogether 200 million cubic meters (6,554 million cubic feet) of earth work had been completed.[22]

An official source stated that the total area of inundation in 1950 was only 60 per cent of that flooded in 1949, in 1951 it was 21, and by September 1952, it was only 8 per cent.[23]

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21. Chang Chao-feng, op. cit., p. 71.

22. Kung-jen Jih-pao [Workers' Daily], October 8, 1952, p. 4.

23. Far Eastern Economic Review, Hong Kong, Oct. 9, 1952, pp. 455-56.

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653 Fu Tso-yi in his report on the water conservation work, said that the Hwai River Project covered 280 000 kilometers (about 173,986 miles) of area, no serious flood was reported in 1954, and the Tientsin-P'uk'ou Railway Line had not been interrupted as before. Altogether 2,900,000,000 cubic meters (95,033 million cubic feet) of earth work had been completed by the laborers with their bare hands. Hsü Kai director of the Bureau of Surveying and Planning of the Ministry of Water Conservation, affirmed that the work of the Hwai River Project had passed the test of the second highest watermark of the flooding river in 1954.[24]

All the reservoirs and detention basins constructed on the river and its tributaries by the end of 1954 were capable of storing 16,500 million (540,705 million cubic feet) cubic meters of water and protecting 2 million hectares (about 2.47 million acres) of farmland from attack of flood and drought.[25] The latest Communist report said that most of the important parts of the first stage of the Hwai River Project including the Fo-tzu-ling and Nan-wan reservoirs

24. Jen-min Shou-tse [People's Handbook], Peking, 1955, pp. 513-15.

25. NCNA, Penpu, July 3, 1954; quoted from Survey of Mainland China Press, Hong Kong, No. 842, July 5-7, 1954, p. 40.

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731/653 had been completed in July 1955.[26]

● All the reports from Mainland China and some from Hong Kong praised what the project had done for the improvement of living conditions of the people in the Hwai River area. Such reports imply that the millions of peasants who continue to toil on the banks of the river for a few bowls of rice a day have no reason to complain.

III. "REFORM-THROUGH-LABOR" IN EAST CHINA

A. Reform-through-Labor Camps in Shanghai

697/466 As a result of the drive for suppression of counterrevolutionaries which started in the Spring of 1951 and the Three-Anti and Five-Anti campaigns which followed, the number of prisoners sentenced to reform-through-labor reached 200,000 in Shanghai by the end of that year. Reform-through-labor camps are scattered all over the suburbs of the big city. Most of the prisoners are employed in municipal constructions, road building, and light industries. The following is an example given by the Communists through the official channel New China

26. Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao [China Daily News], New York, Aug. 5, 1955, p. 2.